



Embracing the Future while
Remembering our Past



Township of Stirling-Rawdon
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COMMUNITY CORNER

Your source for local information

2019

MESSAGE FROM Mayor Bob Mullin

During my first six months as your Mayor, I have been kept very busy. There have been many training sessions for Council Members: Orientations for new Councilors, changes in Government, new Provincial rules, expansions to insurance concerns, cyber issues, plus on-going and rapid developments in Provincial policy.

I have attended two conferences on your behalf: the Good Roads Conference in Toronto and the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) Conference in Pembroke. The Good Roads Conference gave me an opportunity to share in a presentation on behalf of the Township of Stirling-Rawdon to the Province regarding our very serious concern with the Belleville Road/Stirling-Marmora Road (formally Hwy 14) and its upkeep costs. The OSUM Conference I attended in Pembroke was at the request of the County of Hastings.

We have spent a considerable amount of time reviewing reports and meeting with department heads to prepare for the 2019 Budget. The many years of minimal growth and spending have finally caught up to the Township. The infrastructure has aged immeasurably and needs major work in both the village of Stirling, Spring Brook, and the rural areas in our Township. Our fleet of aging vehicles – many of which are nearing the age of 15 years and more – need updating as we move forward. We cannot rely on vehicles that are 15 years, plus to be our frontline equipment. The operating costs are becoming onerous, and the reliability is greatly reduced.

We have had some “surprise” expenses; for example, the roof on the Stirling Festival Theatre building needs to be replaced at significant cost. However, we are moving forward in the area of development in our housing market. The additional of 100 plus new homes in the village limits will result in a much larger tax base, which will help with future expenses.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the patience and hard work that has been put in by the entire Municipal Staff. They have been working tirelessly to keep your Municipality running smoothly. I hope that you, the ratepayers, can appreciate and

TOWNSHIP UPDATE By Roxanne Hearn, CAO/Treasurer

As we start a new term of council, there is always training to help new members of Council understand the municipal policy and procedures. This training includes the proper process for accessing the upper tier governments and various agencies. The first six months of this new Council has been challenging for staff and Council alike, particularly with provincial budget and many legislative changes. This, in turn, has effected changes to our municipal budget preparation.

We have met again with Ministry of Transportation (MTO) at the Ontario Goods Roads Conference in Toronto in February. We provided the ministry personnel with a detailed report on the need for former highway 14 to have sustainable funding, cost sharing or uploaded cost options discussed and pursued. This road is a connecting link travelled by many people other than just the residents of Stirling-Rawdon. This is our second meeting with MTO. I have also followed up with MTO via of e-mail in the months since. Hopefully, this result in a solution for the betterment of Stirling-Rawdon.

The 2019 Budget was presented by the Management Team to Council. It included comments and explanations with the report in order that Council have the best information possibly to make the tough decisions. The initial budget showed an increase of 16.5%. Working together, Council and Management made many changes, resulting in a passed 2019 Budget with an increase of 5%. Looking ahead to 2020, Council and Management are aware there will be many new challenges in the form of additional funding cuts, legislated downloads and new mandates.

Infrastructure is a huge issue for all municipalities and we have collectively been advocating the upper levels of government to establish sustainable funding that will help reduce the Infrastructure deficit. Not only will we need assistance from all levels of government, but we also need to take a long hard look at our own budget to establish efficiencies without affecting overall service levels.

The Stirling-Rawdon team, comprised of Council and Management is going to continue to move forward and work together to provide the best for our beautiful community. We appreciate all the assistance we receive through local organizations. It is with heartfelt appreciation that I extend my thanks to our entire team for the many hours of work and support provided.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

STIRLING-RAWDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Jaye Bannon— CEO

The Stirling-Rawdon Public Library continues to be a busy hub with a number of activities planned on a weekly basis for patrons and members of the community.

The Library continues to serve as a depot for the Good Food Box and Good Baby Box programs run by the Community Development Council of Quinte. This service is available to all residents regardless of income. Orders and payment are received at the Library on or before the first Friday of the month and boxes are delivered to the Library on the third Wednesday of each month. Visit <http://cdcquinte.com/> to find out more about this incredible service.

If you are interested in researching your family history but don't know where to begin, our Local History room is open to the public and volunteers are on hand to offer assistance with their genealogical research every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm. Feel free to drop by!

Just before school breaks for the summer, we will be offering a Home Alone Course on June 8th and a Babysitting Course on June 22nd through 'Be Prepared' to offer the training youth may need to keep safe or make a few dollars throughout the summer. Registration is required.

The upcoming art show in the Library Art Gallery will run from June 12th to August 24th. Join us for the opening reception on June 15th...everyone welcome! This show features Sheila Romard (Oils) and Gregory Maude (Watercolours) in the main gallery. They are joined by Wire Artist, Iris Casey, whose hummingbirds will adorn the gallery windows. Plus, the artistic talents of Trenton High School students will be found in the display cabinet in the library lobby.

Our annual Summer Reading Club will be offered once again through July and August with plenty of games, activities, crafts, and events to inspire the love of reading, literacy and libraries! Reading Rocks returns to Stirling from July 9th to August 20th. Find painted rocks hidden around the village and return it to the library for a chance to win some fun prizes! Cardboard Creations, Fair Crafts, Creation Station, Bird Feeders, Choose Your Own Adventure, Cupcake Wars and Amazing Race Community Scavenger Hunt are other literacy and learning inspired themed events planned to keep the kids busy this summer!

Andrew Queen and the Campfire Crew will be performing for the kids and the kids at heart on July 20th. "People big and small can't help but sing along with his silly lyrics and wacky action songs. High energy, big laughs, and tall tales . . . Andrew dishes up one super-sized order of fun!" Stay tuned for more details.

For those who want to load up on audio books for those long summer car rides, or e-books for reading at the beach, don't forget that your Stirling-Rawdon Public Library card gives you access to thousands of FREE titles through Overdrive. Visit the library to learn how!

For more information on any of the above mentioned services and events or to find out more about what the Library has to offer, please visit our website at www.stirlinglibrary.com, call us at 613-395-3837, email us at info@stirlinglibrary.com, check out our Facebook or Instagram pages or drop by to 43 West Front St.

WATER & WASTEWATER OPERATIONS

By Matthew Richmond-Environmental Manager

The Municipality will be re-coating the inside and outside of the water standpipe located at the top end of Baker St. This project will take approximately six weeks and will commence mid-August. Renewing the coatings on the standpipe will extend the service life of the standpipe for an additional 20-25 years. Fire Hydrant Flow testing and maintenance will be completed in the month of June. The routine maintenance program is necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system, remove sediment from water mains, verify the proper operation of hydrants, valves and maintain firefighting capabilities.

Stormwater infiltration into the wastewater collection system continues to be an ongoing burden. Residents are urged to contact the Municipality to help develop a plan to divert stormwater from sump pumps and roof leaders to proper stormwater catchment and to disconnect any illegal connections that may be tied into the sanitary sewer lateral. Illegal stormwater connections increase sewage flows and in turn increases operating costs to the users.

Our day to day operations include but are not limited to: repairs on water and wastewater underground infrastructure, preventative maintenance on equipment and regulatory sampling and monitoring.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

FIRE DEPARTMENT By Chief Derrick Little

It's been a steady start to 2019 for the SRFD. The continued amount of precipitation has helped us cut down on out of control grass and brush fires. Shared services with the Tweed Fire Department, administration as well as the Chief and Fire Prevention Officer is going well. FPO Sean Porter and our other fire prevention officers and myself have been conducting numerous inspections, fire investigations and assisting in the development of fire plans.

The SRFD gained three new volunteers this year: Jason McCaskie, Megan Belanger and Jordan Hunter have been added to Station 1. While Jessie Hubble and Phil Warren have been promoted to Captain Positions at Station 2, Brenton Madsen and Gerry Nobes have also been promoted to Fire Prevention Officers. We have had two long time Fire fighters retire this past year. Captain Jim Bronson with over 27 years of service and Grant Moore with over 10 plus years of service. Both members will be greatly missed and we thank them and your families for the many years of dedicated service.

A huge thank you to all of our firefighters that volunteer their time and efforts to helping fight these fires and medical emergencies and a big thanks also to their spouses and families for their dedication and support.

Several members of our department have attended training courses at the Hastings-Prince Edward Mutual Aid Training Facility in Trenton. We have also added the help of the new Loyalist College training program to assist on certification of our fire fighters. SRFD volunteers attend bi-weekly joint hall training and hall station meetings and are on a weekend on call schedule to assure truck check and halls are covered. Congratulations goes out to all those who have achieved successful training certifications. We have also had one of our Captain's Andrew Visser hired as a full time firefighter with the City of Belleville. Congratulations to Andrew and his family.

It is now law that all homes must have carbon monoxide and smoke detectors placed outside all bedrooms and on all levels. These devices should be checked and tested monthly.

Please visit www.srfd.ca to check burning conditions before any burning. For larger burns, please call the Fire Department 613-395-0214.

PUBLIC WORKS

By George Burkitt—Public Works Manager

Blowing Grass on the Roadway is illegal under the Highway Traffic Act.

With Grading of the Roads and Calcium applications being done for Dust Control, grass on the gravel Roads creates pot holes as it makes voids in the gravel. Please do not blow grass clippings on the Roadway.

Any concerns, please contact the office at 613-395-3380.

BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES BOARD By Don Reed –Chief Building Official

This year has started off to be very busy year within the Township. The existing development is expanding into phase 2 at the Fidar's Brae subdivision and the first two blocks in the Stirling Heights subdivision has started. Stonewall Heights subdivision started their first show home. There are several Rural New homes and renovations on going this spring and many out buildings are being erected. Many accessibility projects have begun for example at the arena, church in the area and at commercial properties in town to bring compliance for our up coming goal of January 1 2025. Contract staff has been hired for 6 months to help with the ongoing demand within the department. Existing staff are continuing to train to and upgrade education and qualifications to better assist residents with their building needs.

Please be sure to always have proper permits before starting your projects and planning not to have any problems with building your dream home. Please follow all regulations of zoning set back and get conservation approval before applying. Zoning also applies to all buildings even 10x10 sheds.

BISB was established in 2005 as a shared service agreement amongst Municipalities and is a user pay system. The building by-law fees can be found on line with the application to build, for your convenience. You will need a pool permit to construct a pool and fence around it as per building by-law. From the staff of BISB please work safe on all jobs and have a great year. For more information please contact the BISB at 1-866-414-0088.

STIRLING-RAWDON & DISTRICT RECREATION CENTRE By Richard Dean—Manager

Another season of hockey and figure skating have come to an end, however we would like to congratulate our 2018/2019 Stirling Novice Blues as they are the OMHA Novice BB East Champions. The 2018-2019 Stirling Novice Blues had a season they will never forget. Going undefeated in the regular season (20-0) on their way to an overall record of 48-7-3. Along the way they captured a Tournament title in the Annual Doug Robinson Tournament in Lincoln, Ontario.

As well, they finished as "A Finalists" in the Regional Silver Stick and the Invitational Almonte Tournament.

After going undefeated through 13 playoff games, they faced off against a very good Penetanguishene Flames team (66-3-0) in the Finals. Going the distance to 5 games; each team winning by 1 goal in their home arena – they played a hard fought battle in front of a sold out Stirling crowd. Scoring with just 55 seconds left – the Stirling Novice Blues would win 2-1 and be crowned the OMHA Novice East BB Champions!

Special shout out to all the coach's, players and families for a memorable year!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 22nd
Kegs, Corks & Curds
www.farmtownpark.ca

June 30th
Canada Day Weekend Derby
www.stirlingfair.ca

July 1st
Canada Day Celebrations
Events start at 6:30pm at the
Stirling Fair Grounds (437 W. Front St)
www.stirling-rawdon.com

July 17th
Overalls & Whitewalls, Antique Tractors & Classic
Cars
www.farmtownpark.ca

August 16th to 18th
161st Stirling Agricultural Fair
www.stirlingfair.ca

September 21st
Water Buffalo Festival
<https://www.facebook.com/WaterBuffFest/>

For details on these and other events in your community, please visit the Upcoming Events section of our website at www.stirling-rawdon.com

If you have an event you'd like to place on our **Upcoming Events** or in our community noticeboards, please email the details or poster to receptionist@stirling-rawdon.com



East Front Street



Harold Hall

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